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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/629,524

07/29/2003

Aldrich N.K. Lau

4764

6868

22896 7590 09/09/2008

MILA KASAN, PATENT DEPT.
APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS
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EXAMINER

OLSEN, KAJ K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1795

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/629,524	Applicant(s) LAU, ALDRICH N.K.	
	Examiner KAJ K. OLSEN	Art Unit 1795	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-26, 28, 29 and 31-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-26, 28, 29, 31-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 24-26, 28, 29, and 31-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 2002/00746 (hereafter “WO ‘746”) which corresponds to Viovy et al (US 2004/0101970). All paragraph numbers herein refer to Viovy.

3. In the 6/8/2007 office action, the previous examiner rejected claims 24-26, 28, 29, and 31-51 as being anticipated by the teaching of WO ‘746. See paragraph 3 from that office action.

4. With respect to claims 52 and 53, WO ‘746 constructs the polymer of example 4 with 0.7 g of PDMA (the M2 unit) and 2.8 g of acrylamide (the M1 unit). This results in an M2/M1 weight ratio of 0.25, which is at least 0.1.

Response to Arguments

5. In response to the previous final rejection of 1/28/2008, applicant has provided arguments and two addendums to help illustrate the differences between the grafted copolymer of the

present invention and that of Viovy (i.e. WO '746). The examiner especially appreciates the inclusion of the addendums, which will help the examiner understand the differences between WO '746 and the present invention. For addendum A, applicant concludes with the structure of P_{IV} that the present invention has a carbon-carbon bond formed between the linkage moiety and the pendant group with the pendant having a poly-acrylamide (PAA) structure. By contrast, appendum B for WO '746 polymer shows that the linkage between the PAA pendant and the poly-dimethylacrylamide (PDMA) backbone is an N-ethanethiol-type linkage (e.g. P_{III A} and P_{III B}), which is clearly different from the linkage of the present invention. However, even if the examiner accepts the conclusions raised by these addendums, it is unclear how the claims as presented define this distinction. In particular, the examiner sees nothing in the claims concerning how the two grafts are to be linked that would distinguish the present invention over the teaching of WO '746. Because WO '746 teaches a pendant polymer (PAA) that is grafted to a backbone polymer (PDMA) where the set forth PAA and PDMA read on the defined M₁ and M₂ of the claims, it meets the claims even if the manner in which these two polymers were linked together differs from that of the present invention. If applicant believes that the linkages of the present invention constitute a non-obvious distinction over the graft copolymer of WO '746, then the applicant is invited to set forth said distinction in the claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAJ K. OLSEN whose telephone number is (571)272-1344. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kaj K Olsen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795
September 9, 2008